(b) A representation by Central Trade Unions, addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister has been received. The representation contains issues relating to (i) the entry of foreign cigarettes companies and MNC and its impact on beedis and local producers of cigarettes, (ii) MNC domination of soft drink sector, (iii) rosy assurances given by MNCs, (iv) once entry is given. MNCs cannot be ejected, (v) anti-tobacco legislation and MNCs.

(c) No study has been conducted on allowing FDI in tobacco sector.

(d) FDI up to 100% with prior Government approval is allowed in the tobacco sector subject to industrial licensing, where applicable. This position is in existence since 1998. An administrative decision was taken in 1999-2000 not to grant industrial licence for cigarette manufacturing and, resultantly, no FDI proposal is being considered.

Identity card to beedi workers

1173. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide identity cards to beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Identity cards are issued to beedi workers. Issue of identity cards to beedi workers is a continuous process.

(b) A statement is enslosed *(See* below).

(c) Not applicable.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise details of the number of estimated beedi workers and number of identity cards issued to them

SI. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Beedi Workers Estimated	No. of Identity Cards issued
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7,35,000	7,15,711
2.	Assam	6,674	6,335
3.	Bihar	1,94,170	1,90,110
4	Jharkhand	89,124	84,967
5	Gujarat	46,355	45,874
6	Karnataka	2,50,078	2,30,706

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
7	Kerala	84,133	79,208
8	Madhya Pradesh	9,87,088	8,25,150
9	Chhattisgarh	20,481	20,481
10	Maharashtra	2,56,000	2,52,000
11	Orissa	1,90,313	1,89,008
12	Rajasthan	34,226	34,226
13	Tripura	9,372	6,349
14	Tamil Nadu	6,25,000	6,05,079
15	Uttar Prdesh	4,50,000	4,22,098
16	West Bengal	10,74,531	7,42,050
	TOTAL :	50,53,256	44,49,352

Health hazards workers are facing in ship breaking industry

1174. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ship breaking industry workers are often compelled to break ships of foreign origin having materials like asbestos, which causes serious health hazards; and

(b) the preventive measures being taken by the authorities to protect the workers from such health hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The ships bought for breaking are mostly from foreign origin. These ships are having materials like asbestos, etc.

(b) Preventive measures taken by authorities to protect workers from health hazards are as under:-

- Ministry of Labour and Employment has amended the model rule on ship breaking.
- DGFASLI has identified Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) for different operations carried out in the ship breaking yards. Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has agreed to enforce the use of PPEs in the ship breaking yards and use the penal provisions available in the "Gujarat Maritime Board Ship Recycling Regulations 2003".
- Government of Gujarat has notified Rule 68-H under the Gujarat State Factory Rules pertaining to ship building, ship repairing and ship breaking.
- The Government of Gujarat has established a separate Inspectorate of Factories at Alang headed by the Deputy Director for exclusive